Agricultural policies

1337. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present agricultural policies need reformulation to ensure proper growth of the rural economy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 50 per cent of the plan outlay has been reserved for rural development during the last two years; whereas investment in agriculture and allied sector has come down;

(c) if so, the reasons therfor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Public Sector outlay on agriculture and allied sectors has increased in the last two years. Investment in agriculture in absolute terms has also not declined.

(d) Efforts will be made to optimally use the investments already made in the agricultural sector, rather than making fresh starts with huge investments. The main thrust of additional public sector investments will continue to be on development of rainfed farming areas, diversification of agriculture and supportive infrastructure for it, ensuring efficent use of inputs etc. It is also envisaged to encourage private sector investment through institutional financial support.

Facilities to earthquake victims

1338. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of earthquake victims in Uttarkashi and other parts of Garhwal who have been provided with homes and other facilities so far; and

(b) whether Government have received complaints about misappropriation of relief supplies; if so, the action taken by Government against the quality officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

International Goat Conference

1339. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a large goat population to earn valuable foreign exchange;

(b) whether the International Goat Conference, held in Delhi recently has expressed its unhappiness that enough had not been done to exploit the full potential of the goat; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The formal recommendations of the International Goat Conference have not yet been received.

(c) Government has strengthened the research programmes on goats.

Shortfall in production of foodgrains

1340. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likelihood of a short-fall in production of foodgrains during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons for this shortfall; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to augment the food production and maintain self-sufficiency in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) It is too early to indicate the likely shortfall in production of foodgrains during the current financial year. However, there is likelihood of a shortfall in the production of foodgrains during the current agricultural year 1991-92.

(b) The main reason for the shortfall in production of foodgrains during 1991-92 is deficient and erratic behaviour of rainfall in the South-West and Post Monsoon Seasons.

(c) In addition to the regular ongoing programmes for increasing foodgrains production viz., Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD), Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) of Wheat, Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) of Maize & Millets, National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP), Assistance to small and Marginal farmers for construction of shallow tubewells/ dugwells (STW/DW), contigency crop planning including adoption of short duration varieties and varieties resistant to moisture stress conditions were taken up.

Producton/price of foodgrains

1341. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of rise in the prices of major agricultural inputs during the last three years, yearwise ;

(b) the percentage of rise in the support price of major foodgrains during the above period ; and

(c) the percentage of rise in the production of these foodgrains during the above period ; and

(d) the steps taken for the efficient management of the farm input vis-a-vis increase in productivity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The annual percentage increase in the price of major agricultural inputs during the period 1988-89 to 1990-91 are given in Statement-I. (*See* below).

(b) The annual percentage increase in the support price of major foodgrains during the above period are given in Statement-II. (*See* below).

(c) The annual percentage increase in the production of major foodgrains during the last three years ending 1990-91 are given in Statement-II. (*See* below).

(d) Various schemes/programmes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation including balanced use of fertilisers, conjunctive use of water, changes in input-mix and spread of location specific high yielding varieties are basically meant to improve the efficiency of inputs and increase productivity in the agricultural sector.

Statement-I

Annual Percentage Rise in the Wholesale Price Indices of Major Agricultural Inputs

Name of Input	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Fertiliser	—8.1	+0.2	0
Pesticides	+4.8	+6.5	+6.7
Lubricants	+19.7	+2.6	+19.6
Diesel Oil	—1.9	+0.2	+29.3
Tractors	+15.8	+7.9	+7.4
Diesel Engines	+8.5	+11.0	+8.0
Diesel Fuel Pumps	+7.0	+20.6	+6.6
Trailors	+0.1	+12.6	+6.8
Electricity (Irrigation)	—2.1	—8.6	+4.9
Agricultural Wages (average of States)	+13.6	+10.8	+11.6